RAJYA SABHA

'dnesday, the 11th December, 1996/
20th Agrahayana, 1918 (Saka)

he House met at eleven of the clock,

'r. Deputy Chairman *in the Chair*

E: DEMAND TO BRING A BILL ON IE RESERVATION FOR WOMEN

उपसभापति: क्या बात है आज बहुत जोर से नमस्कार हो रही है? ...(व्यवधान)

There seems to be something very special today. (*Interruptions*)

Even before Question Hour! (*Interruptions*) Q.!). 281.

HRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Madam, Q.No. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA nataka): Madam, the Government is ng out from their commitment to bring a (*Interruptions*) We want you, as our entative also in the Chair, to ask them at le o introduce the Bill. Let it be defeated if the, an't manage it. (*Interruptions*) But it must oe i roduced. (*Interruptions*)

सभापति: क्वेश्चन ऑवर हो जाये, उसके बाद श करेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)

'ust one second, please. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, we support her demand. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): The hon. Prime Minister had made this announcement on the floor of this House. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I move a motion for suspension of the Question Hour on this issue. I would like the Question Hour to be suspended. Let the Home Minister gives an assurance that at least the Bill would be introduced during this Session. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Can I have some order in the House? It is very heartening to note...(*Interruptions*)

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: संयुक्त मोर्चा सरकार में इस बात की मांग है ...(व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We will hold up the other proceedings if they behave like this. (*Interruptions*) We will not allow them to conduct the proceedings if they behave like this. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Your anguish is being registered and appreciated very much by the Chair, and I am very happy that even gentlemen are gallant enough to share their power with ladies. I am very happy to know about it. (*Interruptions*) Even the supporting parties are demanding introduction of the Bill. (*Interruptions*)

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Just adjourn the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: We want introduction of the Bill in this Session. The Government has not introduced it. (*Interruptions*) The Home Minister is sitting over here. (*Interruptions*) He can react to it. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, this morning, I have tabled a notice for suspension of the Question Hour. The reason is this. Although this Government has promised to bring a Bill on the reservation for women in this House a long time back, it has not implemented its promise. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): A categorical assurance was given on the floor of this House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Now we hear that the Government is not willing to bring the Bill in this Session. Can we have an assurance from the Home Minister? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): Madam, it is just a rumour. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister is getting up. (*Interruptions*) Let the Home Minister say something. (*Interruptions*) If he wants to say something, let him say.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, it is being alleged that the Government is backing out from its assurance or commitment, or whatever you call it, to bring that Bill. I am not aware of any such backing out.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: What are the facts?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I don't understand....(*Interruptions*).....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is just answering. Let him speak.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: The idea was that the Bill should be brought for discussion and voting, and whatever it is, before the end of this Session. The Session is not over. I don't know why this commotion is going on. ....(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, the Government has given a commitment to bring this Bill during this Session.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...(*Interruptions*)... Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, will you just allow me to have the facts? Let me have the facts. At least those who have facts, if they have any, let them express those facts so that we can go ahead with the questions after that.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I am sorry, was mentioning about the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha. Yesterday when it was raised, he had said, "I can't make any commitment and we can't give time now for the present!" He had refused even to have it listed, Madam. And there is only one week left. And when I met him last night, he said, "I can't make a commitment!" ...(*Interruptions*)... What does it mean if the Parliamentary Affairs Minister says he can't make a commitment to give time in the BAC? He can't say he can't give time...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, we want this Bill to be passed during this Session. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Madam, many things are done behind the back of the Minister! ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; I don't think that the Home Minister is concerned. It is the Law Minister or the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)... Just one second. I can understand the agony, the anger, the disappointment, and whatever words are there in the dictionary, you can put them on my behalf, and so is my apprehension. My anger is that the Rajya Sabha is not being included, because it was a commitment to the Parliament, not to the Lok Sabha, and that is being mentioned all over, in every manifesto of every political party. This is one point. So, you cannot differentiate between the two Houses, whatever the reasons or the difficulties might be. Secondly, the Home Minister is not the one to give a commitment because it does not concern his Ministry. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is the Government's concern.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is all right. ...(*Interruptions*)... Just one second. If it is being said that it is for the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, well I can ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister; I can call him personally and I can ask him to come to the House also. It is the Law Minister who has to really pilot the Bill. So, that matter at this moment is there; I will find out and let the House know what the present situation over here is. What happened in the Business Advisory Committee or in the other House, we are not supposed to know, but you have heard it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It has already come in the newspapers, Madam.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We have heard it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have heard it, fine. But I would rather have it from the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who can come to the House and tell us what the situation is. As the Home Minister said, the House is still not adjourned. We still have a week, the whole of next week, to run the House and it can be brought. But still I have my objection: the Rajya Sabha should be included, it should not be excluded; that also is the recommendation of the Committee. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now we can go for the questions.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Can we discuss this issue at least in the Zero Hour?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have discussed it now in great detail. There is no need for a discussion.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We have not discussed it, Madam. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let us discuss it. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let there be a discussion on this. We are a number of questions to put to the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister come. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, we are just clarifying on this. ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: We have a number of questions to raise. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Let the Parliamentary Affairs Minister come to the House and explain the position.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I said. I will ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to come and explain to us what the position is. ...(*Interruptions*)... We also want to have the facts. ...(*Interruptions*)... What is happening? You continue with the questions. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Madam, it is a good idea that the Home Minister is here to protect the Parliamentary Affairs Minister!

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Madam, Mr. Indrajit Gupta is a senior member of the Government, if we go by age. If we go by experience, he is the seniormost Minister. Even otherwise, if we go by the importance of the portfolio, who comes after the Prime Minister, after Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, it was Vallabhbhai Patel he is in that position. So, why can't he say something? What is happening in the Government? Nothing absolutely.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak now in peace, harmony and ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, don't disturb the Home Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Dr. Saheb, please sit down. The Home Minister wants some peace in the House to explain it as the seniormost member of the Government.

The Home Minister wants some peace in the House to explain as the senior-most Member. बोलने दीजिये उनको।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Madam, as Home Minister, apart from the kind of descriptions and adjectives which are used. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: There are no adjectives and no insinuations. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. It was a good adjective. Thank God!

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:... I can only make two statements here today. One is that I, as Home Minister, am not aware that the Government is going back on its commitment or assurance, whatever you like to call it. I am not aware of it. Somebody said, "There are rumours." I cannot go by rumours. The second statement is that if there is to be any change in the Government's position in this matter, it can only be done by a reference to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has to consider the matter, if it is brought before the Cabinet with any new proposal. It has not come before the Cabinet so far. Therefore, as Cabinet Minister also I am not aware of any reconsideration of this matter by the Cabinet which is, after all, the final authority. This is all that I can say at this moment.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, I have got two points.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we have the Question Hour.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, I have got only two points.

One point is that the Government might not say that they are not getting the Bill through. They might say that they will not get the Bill through during this session. Our worry is that if the Bill is delayed, that will be a breach of promise. The other worry which we are having is this. Renukaji mentioned about rumours. There is a strong rumour going on in the Central Hall that some male Members will take to their heels. That means they will be absent on that day to defeat this amendment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will not go by rumours. Till we reach the bridge we will not think how we should cross it. Let the Bill come. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Dr. Biplab Dasgupta should have raised it in the Steering Committee. There is a super-Cabinet and a super-Government. This is for a show and for the Press he speaks on the subject here and he does not ask... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let us not go into it. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: ... his people to ensure that the matter comes before the House. (*Interruptions*)...

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: यह यूलिंग पार्टी के सपोर्टर्ज़ यहां तो बहुत शोर मचाते हैं (व्यवधान) यह बात समझ में नहीं आती। (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Now I think the matter is going into a political disagreement. I don't want women to get involved in the political disagreement who should do what and where. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: This is domestic disharmony.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. The Home Minister has said that it has not come before the Cabinet. I want one assurance from him that when it goes to the Cabinet he will throw all his weight in favour of the Bill. We can ask for that much assurance from him.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: That weight of the Home Minister was articulated by my colleague, Shri Satish Agarwal.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 281.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Schemes formulated by Government for production of Silk

*281. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes formulated by Government to boost the production of various types of silk;

(b) whether the production of erimuga and tasar silk has been declining of late; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the production of silk particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/ incentive/financial assistance shcemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Board has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc. in association/collaboration with the States.

(b) While the production of eri and muga silk has been steady, there has been a decline in the production of tasar.

(c) In order to check decline in production of tasar and to promote development of other non-mulberry varieties like eri and muga, the CSB has initiated an International Non-mulberry R&D Programme for taking up collaborative research projects on non-mulberry by inviting scientists from abroad. Besides organising supply of basic seed, CSB has also taken up schemes for augmentation of tasar, muga & eri food plants.

Madhya Pradesh & Assam are among the 12 non-traditional mulberry States covered under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project for implementation of pilot sericulture projects in select districts of these States. Besides assistance has been provided for implementation of a project for development of tasar cocoons in Madhya Pradesh and Action Plan for development of